



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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Daring Exploits of Capt. Charles W. Austin

by Georgia Grafton Austin

One of the most daring and heroic men in the Confederate navy was Capt. Charles W. Austin. He was, jointly with Capt. John A. Stevensen, the designer and constructor of the first ironclad ever built, the Confederate ram Manassas, which he commanded. The Monitor and the Merrimac are generally referred to as the first successful efforts in ironclad architecture. But for the Manassas, the Merrimac would probably never have been built.

The first ironclad, the Enoch Train, a towboat on the Mississippi, was purchased by Mr. Stevensen before the Federals had been driven from the field of Bull Run. It was a powerful vessel, with twin screws and mammoth engines for a craft of its size. One hundred and eighty feet in length, it was registered at about 100 tons.

Hauled upon the ways at New Orleans, builders swarmed over its hull, while all the city laughed at the plans laid down by the two captains. It was sheathed above the water line, under the direction of Commander Austin, with two thicknesses of railroad rails, and was fitted with a ram of iron pointing out beneath about five feet in length.

Before the vessel had been completed the blockade of the Mississippi was established. A commodore stationed at New Orleans refused to man the vessel, and shared the accepted belief that she was useless. Permission to call for volunteers was given however. With a crew of nineteen men, she steamed down the river to its

mouth. There lay four sloops-of-war bearing a total armament of fifty-six guns.

Of all the twenty souls aboard, Capt. Austin alone stood upon the deck. Bearing down at full speed upon the blockading fleet, he aimed for the steam sloop-of-war Richmond, twenty-two guns. In the teeth of a hail of fire thundering from half a hundred cannon, the intrepid commander, standing alone and in open sight from every vessel, commanded the engineer to pile on more coal under the boilers. Broadside after broadside came, crashing about him like the fury of hell.



Charles William Austin
1833 - 1889



Georgia Grafton Austin
1844 - 1913

Plowing through the water with all the speed of which the vessel was capable, it was seen too late that a coal schooner lay between the ram and its victim. Without swerving, the Manassas steamed on. Solid shot crashed and broke upon the iron sides, but still Capt. Austin stood unhurt. With an awful shock the ironclad cut through the sailing vessel and plunged her spur far into the wooden sides of the Richmond.

The Manassas backed away unhurt, with its gallant captain still standing on the deck. The Richmond, however, was a wreck, while the coal schooner was already at the bottom of the sea. In hot haste the remainder of the Federal fleet were steaming away from the monster that had attacked them.

The Confederate vessel was left alone and the blockade was temporarily broken. But in getting away from its victims the port engine of the ram had been broken. Pursuit was impossible. Slowly,

Please see "Charles W. Austin," page 4

<http://www.afaofa.org>



Membership Corner

Membership News

New Members Welcomed

Deborah Kaye Sorenson

4780 Clothier Way; Sacramento, CA
95841.

dsorenson001@att.net

Robert b. Eng, d. bef 1687 RI; Joseph b. RI; Robert b. ~1698 RI; Benjamin b. 1740 RI; William b. 1767 West Greenwich RI, d. 1849 Herkimer NY; Joseph b. 1791 NY; William b. 1818 Oppenheim NY.

Louise E. Austin Smith

5646 E. Dixileta Drive; Cave Creek, AZ
85331.

weezy@weezy.info

Joshua b. 1748; Ralph b. 1784 CT; William Henry b. 1824 NY; Almira (Elmyra) b. 1787 NY.

Vincent E. Smith III

5931 Effingham; Houston TX 77035.
vesiii@juno.com

John of New Haven CT b. ~ 1647; David b. 1670 CT; David b. 1703 CT; David b. 1732 CT; John Punderson b. 1774 CT; Andrew Yates b. 1803 CT; Charles Wm. b. 1833 CT; Andrew Yates b. 1870 TX.

Renewals

Please check your *Newsletter* mailing label for renewal date and instructions. Send renewals to the Treasurer - Lois W. Cody, 336 Pleasant Hill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215.

Members - Share Your Hints and News

Please let us know of major family events, brief research stories, exciting research successes (and failures) and research hints so that they can be shared in the *Newsletter*.

Thanks to all members for your support of the AFAOA.

James Burton Austin Woodward

611 Link Road, Columbus, OH 43213-
2540.

subway1024@sbcglobal.net

Richard b. 1598 Titchfield Eng; Anthony b. 1636 Titchfield Eng; Nathaniel b. 1678 Suffield MA; Nathaniel b. 1703 MA; Gad b. 1733 Sheffield MA; Nathaniel b. 1764 MA; Orrameal b. 1788 Norwich NY; Edwin Ruthven b. 1834 Greene NY; Effie Mae b. 1865 Elmira NY.

Andree Kinnee

3315 Felicity #2; Cincinnati OH 45211.
andree@fuse.net

John b. 1820 Knox Co. OH; Sarah Catherine b. 1844 Knox Co. OH.

Deborah Lynn Reynolds Bokelman

1730 15th Rd.; Washington, KS 66968.
bokelmanfamily@washingtonKS.net

Richard b. 1598 Titchfield Eng; Anthony b. 1636 Titchfield Eng; John b. 1672 Rowley MA.

Address Changes

Please send changes to the Membership Chairman - Alice Martin, 527 Front Beach Dr. #3, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

When you joined the AFAOA you were asked to name your earliest Austin ancestors and 3 spaces were provided. Some of you only named one ancestor and some added additional pages, naming your entire known Austin line. Since giving that information have you extended your line back a generation or more? If so, please send me the additional names to update your membership record.

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman

Liz Austin Carlin

Recent Additions to the AFAOA Library

I am very happy to introduce our members to the following three new books and two new book extracts that have been added to the AFAOA Library.

"The Mill on Halfway Brook- stories of families who settled near Halfway Brook in the town of Highland, NY, 1800-1880", by Louise Elizabeth Smith, published in 2010 by Halfway Brook Publications, Cave Creek, Arizona.

This publication is full of photos, maps, family letters, and other documentation that outlines the lives of the people in this Sullivan County, New York village including Ralph and Fanny (Knapp) Austin and their cousins. Austins from the Abraham Austin family also lived there and are mentioned.

"The Family of James R. Austin – a great grandson of Alexander Austin, 1755-1826, from County Antrim to Honea Path", compiled by William B. Austin, Jr., published in 2010, Hingham, Massachusetts.

This book is also full of photos, maps, family letters, and many personal reminiscences that document the line of Alexander Austin of Laurens County, South Carolina.

"The World of E.J.A. – Life and Letters of Elizabeth Jane Austin, 1827-1905", by Mary Austin Harlan, 2004. Elizabeth Jane Austin can be found in the Edward Austin of Rhode Island line.

During a visit to the DAR Library in Washington, DC, before the 2010 Austin Convention, we were able to "extract" significant Austin data from: ***"Austin-Herndon and Allied Families"*** by Exie Johnson Green and Jacqueline Green Downs. This data covers Austins in Henderson County, Tennessee.

Another extraction was from ***"John Wilson Austin and Charlotte Sophie (Ewing) and Their Descendants, 1818-1982"***, compiled by Charlotte Felsted, 1982. This covers Austins in Oswego County, New York, Wood County, Ohio and Oceana County, Michigan.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The convention in Washington was great! Thanks to Dr. Michael Austin, AFGS president, for organizing it! From fellowship and food to instruction and research, the weekend was enjoyed by all. Talks were full of interesting information.

We welcome the newly elected and appointed officers. Kathi Koble has joined Bill Minnick and Patti Korach as a vice president and Lois Cody has accepted the job of secretary/treasurer. Bonnie Bigolin has been appointed assistant to our genealogist, Liz Austin Carlin, and will handle northern states queries. Jim Carlin will continue as database chairman, Sue Osborn as webmaster and Alice Martin as membership chairman. You can help by sending in your family stories and research. Thanks to Vince E. Smith and Helen Austin for their contributions to this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Our *Newsletter* is traditionally filled with interesting stories and association news. Our web site, easy to access and navigate, has become the primary means of "publishing" hard data. In addition to individual data and source notes we can also add text documents and pictures. Look there for the rest of the booklet, "Daring Exploits of Capt. Charles W. Austin." Thanks again to the web site team for their work in improving the site - a very important means of assuring that Austin family histories will be preserved for future generations.

I am excited about the two possible locations of next year's convention. In my opinion they are the two best places to do family research in the country, and hard to choose between. Both libraries have a wonderful selection of information available, are easy to use and are in friendly, easy to navigate cities. Please vote your preference, especially if you might be able to attend and if the location would make a difference in your attendance. We hope to see you there!

Gay G. Martin, Jr.
AFAOA President
apresident@afaqa.org

Did you know that going back 4 generations you have 16 great-great-grandparents, and, if each generation has four surviving children, your generation will have 256 descendants (your cousins/siblings) from a single pair of those 16?

If we begin with a single couple ten generations ago, in the mid 18th century, their direct descendants could number over one million! I didn't know that!

2010 International Austin Covention

Our annual Austin Convention was held June 4 – 6, in the Washington DC area. This year it was jointly sponsored by the Austin Families Association of America and the Austin Families Genealogical Society.

Those who were able to arrive early ventured into Washington on Thursday and Friday to see the sights and do research at the DAR Library and the Library of Congress. Some went on a Friday morning tour led by Tim Riordan. Convention activities began with a 6 p.m. Friday "Get Acquainted" reception at the Courtyard Dunn Loring Fairfax Hotel in Vienna, VA.

Saturday and Sunday workshops and talks, enjoyed by twenty nine attendees, were held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge and an additional twenty guests joined the group for the Saturday evening banquet. There was much interest in the book collections and the computer databases of both organizations.

The following talks were presented on Saturday:

"Publishing My Alexander Austin of Ireland Line" – William Bennett Austin, Jr. of Hingham, MA described how he had progressed in his genealogy research to the point where he wanted to share what he had assembled with his family. Printing seemed too costly until he discovered Lulu Publishing (www.lulu.com), where he could design and print his book in small quantities, making revisions as needed. He explained the process, giving hints on how to successfully publish online.

"Making it Easier to Find things at the AARC" – Dr. Michael Edward Austin of Concord, MA explained how to more effectively search the resources of the Austin-Austen Research Center, on the AFGS website (www.austins.org). He also demonstrated possibilities in future Austin research, combining new technology and maps with the event information in the databases.

"Five Austin Families Among the Five Civilized Tribes" – Dr. Helen Cook Austin of Decatur, AL described her research on Austin families with American Indian connections, using the cards and packets of information compiled by the Dawes Commission (1898–1907). The Dawes Final Rolls are the lists of individuals who were accepted for membership in the "Five Civilized Tribes" – Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles – and therefore entitled to an allotment of land. Tribal membership today is determined by proof of descent from a person listed on these rolls.

"Genealogical Gold Mine: Records of the WPA" – Charles G. Mason, CG, of Springfield, VA, explained the history of the Works Projects Administration (1935–1943) and how its Historical Records Survey was carried out. He gave information on the WPA records that are available and where to find them.

"Library Research Using Your Digital Camera" – Gay G. Martin, Jr. of Ocean Springs, MS described advantages of using your camera in a library - especially useful for oversized books and maps and even for projected microfilm. He discussed topics such as library policies, lighting and technique and showed examples of camera use.

Please see "Convention" on page 5

Charles W. Austin, continued from page 1

the Manassas steamed back to New Orleans only to be later vitally injured. She was run upon a sand bank to save the crew and was there abandoned by force of circumstances, never to sail to sea again.

The advantage of an ironclad vessel of war had been demonstrated. The Manassas had been unarmed. At the same time the power of a craft of her stamp, manned by a sufficient crew and mounted with guns of large bore, was recognized.

* * *

While his parents resided in Ohio, Capt. Austin lived in the Lone Star State and commanded a vessel of the Harris-Morgan line, plying between New Orleans and Galveston. With the outbreak of the war his sympathies were with the South.

Four of his brothers were with the Union Army, while another was in the Confederate Army. He was the only one who took to the sea. For four years his life was filled with daring exploit after exploit. Three times he was in prison, twice escaping. After the Manassas had been abandoned he took to blockade running, and from that time one feat of daring crowded rapidly upon the other.

* * *

It was in Galveston harbor that the last and most brilliant event in a Civil War career occurred under the eyes of the entire city. In broad daylight Capt. Austin ran the blockade of the port with his ship, the Susanna, and brought provisions and war supplies to a distressed land.

It was in the last year of the struggle, the result of which was already forgone. Almost all of the blockaded ports along the Atlantic and the Gulf had been captured, and the entire Southern squadron was blockading the harbor. The Susanna was built on the Clyde, and was a long, low steamer built for speed and concealment. Time after time she had run into Galveston harbor through the fleet collected outside, but always before at night.

Her last run was momentous. Leaving Havana with a cargo of gun powder and provisions, calculations had been made, as formerly, to arrive off the harbor under the cover of darkness, but a break in the machinery caused delay. Steaming along, Capt. Austin found himself one morning but a few miles off Galveston and in sight of the blockading fleet.

As yet he was unseen, owing to the low construction of his ship, and he decided to run out to sea; but inquiry below elicited the information that the supply of coal would not be sufficient for twelve hours more. The only alternative was to make for a place of concealment under the shore, and thitherward the prow was turned.

But the overhanging smoke had attracted the attention of the fleet, and a ship-of-war was fast bearing down upon the daring blockade runners. Without a moment's hesitancy Capt. Austin determined to run the gauntlet. The course was again changed and the Suzanna headed directly for the bar. A dozen ships barred her way.

With great clouds of smoke pouring from her funnels, and all attempt at concealment thrown to the winds, the swift Susanna rushed on, seemingly to sure destruction. Soon she came within range and every vessel opened up on her from a long distance. The Seminole was in the lead and sent solid shot across the bow of the long, dark ship that fairly skimmed the water, foam splashed up over the deck, but the warning

had no effect.

Cutting in, the warship decreased the distance between it and the Susanna until objects could be plainly seen from one deck to the other. Shot after shot went screaming through the air toward the blockade runner, but still she kept her course. The regular channel was blocked, but she went straight ahead. Raked fore and aft, the Susanna, quivering like a frightened animal, rushed on. All Galveston was on the wharves watching the engagement, hoping and praying for the safety of their vessel.

Suddenly the course of the Susanna was changed. Doubling around the Seminole, she made straight for shallow water and the bar. On board the sloop of war they believed her captain had decided to beach her, and the chase was taken up in the hope of capturing the crew and preventing the absolute destruction of the vessel.

But it was a part of the trick. Another turn, that sent the water swirling under the prow, and the course was again changed. Crossing at a dangerous and generally unknown place on the short bar, the Susanna entered the deeper channel of the bay. Her prow had been shot away and both smokestacks were wrecked, but, riddled with shot and shell as she was, she steamed slowly to the wharves and discharged her cargo.

On the next voyage the ship commanded by Capt. Austin was cornered and captured at sea by a federal sloop of war and he was taken to Philadelphia in his own vessel, there to be thrown into prison. A short time afterward the struggle was ended.

Returning to Galveston, the hero went back to the merchant marine and again took command of a Morgan liner. It was at this time (1866) that he met and married Miss Georgia Grafton, who resided in the Texas seaport. Sometime later the couple removed to Savannah, where Capt. Austin took charge of the construction of the jetties at the mouth of the river. There the family of two sons and one daughter grew up from childhood to maturity.

Editor's Note: Charles W. Austin and Georgia Grafton Austin were great grandparents of Vincent E. Smith Jr., who provided the booklet from which these portions have been excerpted. It can be read in its entirety on the AFAOA web site. Captain Austin, born in Connecticut, was a descendant of John Austin of New Haven and the nephew of Texas pioneers John Austin and William Tennant Austin (subject of an article in the February 2010 issue of the Newsletter).

Genealogist's Database Report

AFAOA Genealogist Liz Austin Carlin continues to receive corrections and updates to our existing databases. She also performs research to answer queries received from Austin researchers. These queries are continually updated on our web site.

Since May, Art Sikes, compiler for the Rhode Island Austin databases has sent updates to *Abel, Benjamin, Brayton, Edmund, Edward, Nathan, Thomas and Wait*. The *John & Charity Austin of Maryland* database was just recently updated.

Recent effort by Liz has been concentrating on extracting
Please see "Genealogist" on page 5

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Minutes of Business Meeting
June 6, 2010

President Gay Martin opened the meeting with a welcome to members. He introduced the officers who were in attendance.

The reading of the minutes of the 2009 meeting was waived since they had been posted for everyone to read. Bob Cody moved they be accepted; Jim Carlin seconded. Motion carried.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Alice Martin presented the Treasurer's report for 2009 and year-to date. Dues income is down from \$2,500 to \$2,300 this past year. Major expenses include Newsletter \$1,000 and web site \$1,500. There was a deficit of \$848 for the 2009 convention. The association is losing about \$1,000 per year. The balance as of May 24 is \$7,713.84. Income can vary from year to year as most renewals are for 2 years. Art Sikes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jane Bruckner seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Chairman, Alice Martin, reported that the Association has 179 members, down from 192 in 2009. There have been only 5 new members this year. We need to recruit new members and retain current members. Alice reviewed her renewal notice procedures. An e-mail is sent notifying a member that a renewal is due. This is followed by a note enclosed with the next newsletter, with the expiration date highlighted. A final complimentary newsletter is sent, with another note. E-mailing the newsletter was discussed as a way to reduce expenses.

The Genealogist report was given by Liz Carlin. She reported that 18 of 35 lines were updated in the Northern database. In the Southern database, 14 of 24 were updated.

Jim Carlin, Data Base Chairman, reported that the old software has been completely revised by Joy Davis. This has resulted in a greatly simplified data base that is easier to navigate and has also reduced the work for Jim.

A newsletter editor is needed - Alice and Jim have been doing it. A newsletter team to write articles was suggested..

The Nominating Committee consisting of Art Sikes, Bonnie Bigolin and Alice Martin presented the following slate of officers:

President - Gay Martin, **Vice President** - Bill Minnick, **Vice President** - Patti Korach, **Vice President** - Kathy Koble, **Secretary/Treasurer** - Lois Cody, **Genealogist** - Liz Carlin.

Robert Austin moved to close the nominations. Carol Austin seconded. The slate of officers was approved as presented.

Suggestions were made for the 2011 Convention site. Salt Lake City, UT and Fort Wayne, IN were selected by vote, to be presented to the membership for a final vote.

There is a surplus in the DNA Project fund. Instead of designating another payment to it, the Executive Board will respond to a request from fund manager Carol Austin, if needed, up to \$500. Bob Cody moved to accept this and Jim Carlin seconded. Motion carried.

Robert Austin moved to adjourn.

Submitted by
Lois Cody

“Convention” continued from page 3

The Saturday evening cocktail hour and banquet were enjoyed by all, the highlight being guest speaker Sandra MacClean Clunies, CG, with tales of “Some Amusing, Amazing and Adventurous Austins”. The 2010 Austin Genealogical Research Award was presented by Dr. Michael Austin to Cheryl Austin Riordan, for her contributions to Austin research.

* * *

Talks given on Sunday were:

“**Austin-Austen DNA Project Status Report**” – Dr. Michael Austin discussed the ongoing project, reviewing the test results for the past year and plans for future Austin line DNA testing. Carol Robinson Austin of Garden Grove, CA, coordinator of the Project Fund, later explained how the DNA tests are funded.

“**Connecticut and Pennsylvania Engaged in a Battle Over My Austin Ancestor's Land**” – Robert Krause Austin of Wilmington, DE described his ancestors' involvement with the Susquehanna Company and the Yankee-Pennamite Wars. This ongoing dispute, beginning with settlement of the Valley by both Connecticut and Pennsylvania in the 1760s, resulted from overlapping land grants and purchases of the same land by both colonies and was resolved in favor of Pennsylvania in 1782.

“**John Austin of Cornwall Parish, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1692-1759**” – Jane Austin Bruckner of Forth Worth, TX spoke about the life and times of John Austin, who lived in Colonial Virginia during the reign of King George II. We learned about parishes, taxes, crops of tobacco and corn, county road building and about the Saponi Indian woman who became his wife.

“**Austin Families on the Early Census Records**” – Arthur Maynard Sikes, Jr. of Suffield, CT shared the results of his research on the location of Austins from 1790 to 1860, according to the U.S. Census, with the state of New York having by far the largest number in almost every census year.

* * *

AFAOA and AFGS then each held their annual business meetings to conclude the weekend's activities.

Genealogist continued from page 4

databases from the Unplaced files, updating them, and placing them on-line as stand alone databases. Perhaps more importantly, Liz has also enlisted two new compilers who have volunteered to manage these databases, and to join the AFAOA as well.

We welcome new member Louise E. Smith, major contributor to and now compiler of the *Ralph & Fanny Austin of New York* database. She is the author of the book, “*The Mill on the Halfway Brook*” which details the stories of those descendants of Ralph and his siblings who settled amongst the tributaries of the mighty Delaware River along the border of New York and Pennsylvania.

Welcome also to Ed Austin, who ably assisted by his sister Betty Austin Robison, is the compiler for the *David & Jeremiah Austin* database newly placed on-line as a stand alone database.

Liz Austin Carlin

Austin Veterans in Homes for Disabled Soldiers

A Series by Helen Cook Austin, Ph. D.

There was no Veterans Administration Agency before 1930. However, a proposal to Congress in 1851 by Senator Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, to establish a U. S. Soldier's Home, made it possible for a series of Homes to be established, beginning in 1866.

The National Asylum (later called Home) for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was planned to have three branches: in the northeast (Augusta, Maine), in the central area north of the Ohio River (Dayton, Ohio) and in what was then the northwest (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Seven more branches were added between 1870 and 1907, as more generous eligibility requirements allowed more veterans to apply for admission. In Philadelphia, PA a separate home was established for mariners, called The U. S. Sailor's Home.

There are many Austin veterans of the Civil War listed on the registers of the twelve National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938. The information available in these records varies. It can include: name of soldier (Union Army before 1920), name of Home or Branch, date of admission and discharge for each Home, birthplace, rank, company and regiment, dates and places of enlistment and discharge, physical description, occupation, marital status, religion, name and address of nearest relative, date and place of death. Combined with other traditional sources - such as the U. S. Census, death and burial records, databases of AFAOA and AFGS - I have been able to build a more complete profile for each soldier. The result is in a series of stories that are to be published here.

My original intention was to take each of the Homes and tell a story about each of the soldiers named Austin who lived there after the Civil War. I soon discovered that some of the individuals were dismissed and readmitted to as many as five of the hospitals in locations from Los Angeles to Maine to the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. So, I have chosen to make each story about one soldier showing the various locations of the Homes where he lived. First I will tell about the Civil War veterans, and later I will write about the World War I veterans.

I think these records might provide the answer to some Austin research questions: Where was Great Great Grandfather Austin after the Civil War? If he was living, why was he not with his family on the U.S. Population Census? If I can't find his Regiment and Company in the compiled records or pensions, what other sources for military information are on the Internet?

Case 1: Lyman Purple Austin (1842-1938)

The Mountain Home National Veteran's Home at Johnson City, Tennessee has the following information on its Register #H107, U. S. Pension Certificate No. 61880. Lyman was born on April 11, 1842, in Potter County, Pennsylvania. He had blue eyes, auburn hair, and a fair complexion when he enlisted in the army; but forty-two years later, in 1903, when was admitted to Mountain Home, he was gray haired. He was five feet, nine inches tall. His occupation was as a millwright

when he was young, but he worked as a carpenter when he was older.

He first enlisted in the U. S. Army, September 3, 1861, as a Private in Company E, of the 93rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment at Lockhaven, Pennsylvania. He was discharged from that enlistment on November 9, 1862 by Order of the Secretary of War because of disabilities, including the loss of his second right toe at Williamsburg, Virginia. He re-enlisted November 9, 1862 at Fairfax Court House, Virginia as a Private of Company G. of the 2nd U. S. Artillery Regiment. He was discharged from that unit November 9, 1865 because of expiration of service. He had a g.s.w (wound) on his right foot and had general disability.

Upon his admission to the Mountain Branch in 1903, it was noted that Lyman's wife was Mrs. Jane Austin of Barnardsville, NC, but that name was crossed out before 1927 and the name of a relative listed was Mrs. Ida Pruitt, a step-daughter, of Asheville, North Carolina. His disabilities, as of August 22, 1910, were senility, arteriosclerosis, mental insufficiency, cardiac hypertrophy, loss of second toe on right foot, and chronic gastritis.

For the period from November 21, 1903 until his final discharge on November 10, 1927 there were a total of fifteen times that Lyman was discharged and readmitted to Mountain Home. When Lyman checked out on 16 Jul 1912, he was told that his standing pass was to be withheld for thirty days. After that he transferred to the Roseburg Branch (Southern) at Hampton, VA on Chesapeake Bay, where he lived from 1912 until 1914. He is on register No. 20590. His rate of pension was \$15.00 for U. S. Pension 618800. When he was readmitted to Mountain Home it was September 14, 1917. After his final discharge on November 10, 1927 at Johnson City, Tennessee he went to Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina where some of his family lived.

Sources listed below had additional data about Lyman. AFAOA compilers, Liz and Jim Carlin list the parents of Lyman as Orrameal Austin and Sarah Purple who were living in Harrison Township of Potter County, Pennsylvania in 1850. Orrameal was a blacksmith who was born in Norwich, New York about 1788. Sarah Purple Austin was born about 1799 in New York. Before the Civil War, Lyman was a farm laborer for a neighbor, John Watrous in Harrison Valley.

The 1870 and 1880 census records for Lyman were not found. They might have further information about his first wife and his residence from 1865 to 1900. It is not known whether Lyman had any children by his first marriage.

Lyman had moved to Big Ivy, North Carolina, near Mt. Mitchell about the time he married Mrs. Jane Bradley, in 1887. Jane's mother was born in North Carolina and Jane had been living there since before 1883. He was admitted to the nearby Mountain Home for Veterans in 1903. They lived about twenty-five miles from the Home.

In 1910 Lyman and Jane moved down to the city of Asheville and lived on Logan Street. Laddie and Ida Bradley were in-

fants when their mother Jane married Lyman. After Ida married Clarence Pruitt, she continued to live in Asheville and she was able to visit Lyman at Mountain Home from time to time. Ida's children, Senna, Otis, Carl, Lawrence, and Hershel Pruitt probably considered Lyman their grandfather. Lyman was close to the Pruitt and Bradley family of Asheville and they saw to his burial at Paint Fork Cemetery, at a beautiful spot in the mountains that is near to the Appalachian Trail. Lyman was age 98 when he died.

Sources: Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C., as posted on Ancestry.com.

U. S. Census, 1850, Potter County, PA, Harrison Township, family 74.

U. S. Census, 1860, Potter County, PA, Harrison Valley, 9 Jul p 116, Dwelling 45, Fam 444.

U. S. Census, 1900, Buncombe County, NC, page 304A,

Big Ivy Township, Southern Division, Precinct 1.

U. S. Census, 1910, Buncombe County, NC, Asheville, Ward 3, page 191.

U. S. Census, 1920 Buncombe County, NC, Asheville, Township 3, 6 Jun 1920, page 132, Dwelling 110, Fam 136.

Death Certificate, North Carolina. Lyman P. Austin born about 1840 in New York, a retired carpenter died 4 April 1938 in Asheville, North Carolina, Woodfin, Buncombe County, North Carolina. His age was 98 years. He was buried at Paint Fork, Weaverville, North Carolina 6 April 1938. Informant was Mrs. P. P. Bradley of Asheville, North Carolina. No parents are named. Database online at Ancestry.com (NC Death Records 1909-1975). Paint Fork Cemetery can be seen at Findagrave.com.

"Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA 1638," pub. by AFAOA, p. 247, and the *Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA* database at www.afaoa.org.

Helen Cook Austin

CITIES NOMINATED FOR THE 2011 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The Family History Center in Salt Lake City has the largest collection of genealogical materials in the world. Its records cover the United States, Canada, the British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Its holdings include over 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, 727,000 microfiche, 356,000 books and 4,500 periodicals. Over 400 computers are available for searching 3,725 electronic resources.

Salt Lake City is in a valley located at the foot of the Wasatch mountain range. Attractions include the State Capitol, Temple Square, historic homes of Mormon Pioneers, "This is the Place" Heritage Park, the Hogle Zoo, the Clark Planetarium and various excellent museums. Attend a Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal and an organ recital in Temple Square. The Family History Center and adjacent hotel are conveniently located for walking the downtown area and a short trolley ride from the Gateway Shopping Center.

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AFAOA MEMBER'S BALLOT

SALT LAKE CITY

FORT WAYNE

Name: _____

Address: _____

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne boasts the second most complete (after Salt Lake City) genealogical collection in the United States, with over 350,000 printed volumes, 513,000 microfilm and microfiche items and over 50,000 compiled genealogies. The library's holdings include family histories, state, city and town histories, census records, city directories, passenger lists, military records, Native American records, records for Canada, the British Isles, Germany and other countries, periodicals and PERSI, the periodical index.

This region, at the confluence of three rivers, became an important center of trade, due largely to the Wabash-Erie Canal. Fort Wayne's attractions include: the Botanical Observatory, an excellent Children's Zoo, Museum of Art, Science Central, the Lincoln Museum and the nearby Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum of antique and classic autos.

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VOTE FOR THE 2011 CONVENTION SITE:

1. By using this ballot and mailing to:

Alice Martin

527 Front Beach #3

Ocean Springs, MS 39564

2. By e-mail. Send the information requested on the ballot to: amembership@afaoa.org.

3. On-line. Go to the AFAOA web site. Select "Convention/ Reunion" and follow the instructions.

Deadline: September 15, 2010

<http://www.afaoa.org>

PLEASE NOTICE THE RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. YOUR CHECK FOR DUES - \$15 PER YEAR. OR \$25 FOR 2 YEARS - MADE PAYABLE TO "AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA" SHOULD BE SENT TO:
LOIS W. CODY, 336 PLEASANT HILL DR., CINCINNATI, OH 45215

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
527 Front Beach Dr. #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Address Service Requested

We Need Your Help With Your Newsletter

The AFAOA Newsletter is a way for us to learn about Austin heritage and to keep informed about what is going on in this association and in Austin research. It is also a way to share and preserve stories about our Austin ancestors. However it takes work to keep these pages filled with interesting and timely articles. That is where you, the AFAOA members, come in.

Please send stories about your Austin ancestors, male or female. Do you have an ancestor who was a pioneer or a war hero - who was famous or infamous? What did they accomplish? How did they participate in the events of American history? Tell their stories!

Is there an interesting problem you have solved in your research? A problem that you have not solved?

Sending a story is easy. Type it up and attach it to an email, or send it via the Post Office, to the Membership Chairman (address on page 1).

Your article can either be carefully worded, and ready to print, or a rough draft that needs some editing. Either one will be appreciated.

Another way you can help is to volunteer to join the Newsletter team, perhaps even to be the Editor or Co-Editor. Jim Carlin and I have been doing this task, in addition to our other AFAOA responsibilities, for over a year now.

We need your help! We need people to write articles but we also need people to search for interesting stories and make suggestions of topics you would like to see included.

Stories ... ideas ... offers to help... let us hear from you. Let us fill that blank spot on page 1 and get a name under *Newsletter* Editor.

Many, many thanks.
Alice & Jim